

What is claimed is;

1. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that  
5 stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject  
brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a  
first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous  
shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter  
10 intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode; and

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly  
stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element  
and reads out image data from said image-capturing element  
when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said  
15 continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs  
image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out  
immediately before while electrical charges for the next  
frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time  
in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

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2. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,  
wherein:

said image-capturing element is provided with a  
plurality of pixels; and

25 said recording signal output circuit reads out image

data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

5    3.    An electronic still camera according to claim 1,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-  
capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting  
10    mode has been set.

4.    An electronic still camera according to claim 2,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
15    an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-  
capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting  
mode has been set.

5.    An electronic still camera according to claim 1,  
20    further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed  
and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in  
conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a  
25    first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second

continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

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6. An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in

10 conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a

15 higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

7. An electronic still camera according to claim 3, further comprising:

20 an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second

25 continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second

continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

5 8. An electronic still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, wherein:

10 when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

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9. An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element,

20 wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left

25 open.

10. An electronic still camera according to claim 3,  
further comprising:

a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic,  
5 light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing  
element and image data are read out from said image-  
10 capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left  
open.

11. An electronic still camera according to claim 5,  
further comprising:

15 a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic,  
light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing  
20 element and image data are read out from said image-  
capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left  
open.

12. An electronic still camera according to claim 1,  
25 wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting  
speed is set at a lower speed limit.

- 5 13. An electronic still camera according to claim 2,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting  
speed is set at a lower speed limit.

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14. An electronic still camera according to claim 3,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting  
15 speed is set at a lower speed limit.

15. An electronic still camera according to claim 5,  
wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,  
20 a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting  
speed is set at a lower speed limit.

16. An electronic still camera according to claim 8,  
wherein:

25 when said second continuous shooting mode has been set,

a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

17. An electronic still camera, comprising:

5 a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

10 a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has been set; and

20 a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode.

25 18. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a  
5 first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element  
10 and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has  
15 been set; and

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a  
20 first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.



19. a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a  
5 first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element  
10 and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has  
15 been set; and

a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode; and

20 an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second  
25 continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second

continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

5 20. An electronic camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

10 a single shot/continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a single shot mode or a continuous shooting mode; and

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element  
15 when said continuous shooting mode has been set by said single shot/continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame read out immediately before while electrical charges are being stored for the next frame.